



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN

ALEXANDRIA: TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 27, 1859.

By the arrival of the steamships North America and City of Baltimore, we have late and important intelligence from Europe. The war between the French and English and the Chinese has been re-commenced. An explosion had taken place on the Great Eastern—but the damage would soon be repaired, and the ship be ready for sea, in two or three weeks. See the news in another column. Prices of breadstuffs had slightly advanced.

The opening of the Fall Fashions, in the way of bonnets, dresses, &c., in New York, makes, this season, more than the usual "sensations," and long and minute descriptions are given of shapes, ribbons, laces, silks, flounces, &c., &c. There seems to be now, "plenty to wear."

An account is given in the Kansas Express of the terrible suffering of two men, on their way to Pike's Peak, who had subsisted for days on grasshoppers and grains of corn picked up along the road. They were fallen in with by another party of emigrants, and saved.

The grand cricket contest, between eleven of England, and twenty-two of the United States, to take place in New York, on the 3d, October, and in Philadelphia, on the 10th, promises to be a most interesting affair.

We have received the September number of Blackwood's Magazine, reprinted by Leonard Scott & Co., New York. It contains articles on Horse Dealing in Syria, Discoveries in Africa, Foreign Affairs—and various other papers of interest. Robert Bell, Agent, King street.

On Thursday evening last, young Bramham, the son of Mr. W. P. Farish's miller, (living at the grist mill near Charlottesville,) was cutting down a tree, which falling, struck another and one of its limbs broke off and falling, struck young Mr. Bramham on the head, badly fracturing his skull, from the effects of which he died in a very short time.

W. W. Corcoran, esq., has subscribed \$100 to increase the premium list of the Agricultural Society of Montgomery county, Md., next year, and given \$100 to aid in defraying the expenses of the Society's late exhibition.

Many of the "straight Americans," of New York, are dissatisfied with the "electio" policy pursued by the recent "American" State Convention, and announce their determination to act without reference to its action.

The question of the future annexation of West Florida to Alabama is exciting considerable interest among the citizens of both States. During the approaching election in Florida it will form one of the principal matters of consideration.

Washington College, Virginia, has opened with about ninety students, and it is confidently expected that the number this session will exceed one hundred. The number is larger than has been in attendance for many years.

The Leeburg Washingtonian says: "Capt. H. H. Rhodes, sold on Wednesday last, his residence, near Leesburg, with about 18 acres of land, to Geo. K. Fox, Jr., County Clerk, for \$4,800."

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A movement is now on foot, by some, in Wardsville and vicinity, in Hardy county, to have themselves attached to the county of Shenandoah.

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The annual meeting of the American Missionary Association, is appointed to be held at Chicago, Ill., the 18th of October.

The Hon. Jefferson Davis has returned to Washington, much improved in health.

The Conservator, published at Berryville, Clark County, Va., by H. K. Gregg, is a neat sheet, devoted to politics, but in its editorial matter, it is decidedly "not partisan" in its course. The contents of the Conservator are well selected, and its appearance creditable.

John McAlpine, alias Col. Marmaduke Reeves, of the British army, alias Col. Johnston, of Charleston, S. C., alias Walter Mack, of Cuba, alias Col. Bruce of Cuba, alias Mr. Prince, alias—but we have no more room to spare for his other aliases, was on Friday last placed at the bar of the New York Court of General Sessions, Judge Russell presiding, charged on the first of three indictments, with robbing a young lady, a governess, of a carbuncle ring. McAlpine is an old offender, and has served a term of two years in the State prison.

Professor George Bush died at Rochester last Monday, aged sixty-three years. For many years he has resided in New York city, where he was esteemed not only by those who entertain the belief of Swedenborg, but by the lovers of learning and religion generally. He was a fine scholar, and was deemed a sound expositor of the voluminous doctrines of the seer of Sweden. He edited the New Church Repository for several years, and is well known by several volumes, which he wrote in the course of an industrious life.

At a meeting of the Catholics of Staunton, held at the house of the Rev. Daniel Downey, Sept. 11, 1859, a series of resolutions was passed, expressing the views of the members of the meeting in the correctness of the verdict upon the charge of murder for which Dr. Downey was tried and acquitted, last spring. Amongst the resolutions was one containing a high compliment to the people of Albemarle.

Charles Snyder, esq., a prominent citizen of Cincinnati, was arrested on the 21st instant, on a charge of forgery and perjury. On the following morning he was found dead in bed, having taken a dose of laudanum. Mr. S. was formerly a member of the City Council, and held other responsible offices. His arrest brought upon his family by his disgrace induced him to put an end to his life.

The wife of a laborer employed by the Government, complains through the New York Times, that her husband, with but scanty means, is compelled to submit, spring and fall, to a tax for the promotion and maintenance of a party. The Times thinks her appeal to "soften the consciences of those in authority" will be vain, the first necessity of those in authority being to keep in.

A young lady, aged about sixteen, of considerable intelligence and prepossessing appearance, is now residing with the Sheriff of Ottawa county, Ill., preparatory to her removal to the lunatic asylum. She became insane from viewing the aurora borealis a short time ago, which she was induced to believe betokened the approaching end of the world.

The delegation from the Irish Presbyterian Church have been received with great cordiality and respect by their brethren of New York. A pamphlet has recently been published descriptive of the revival in the north of Ireland. It is described as a great movement, operating beneficially upon large masses of the people.

A shocking accident occurred at Sharp's Rifle Factory on Thursday afternoon, when, by the premature discharge of a dozen rifles, Warren W. Shepard, an honest and faithful man, sixteen years of age, was instantly killed, his head being literally blown to pieces.

The San Juan Difficulty. WASHINGTON, September 25.—Colonel Rankin, Register of the Land Office at Olympia, in Washington Territory, has arrived here from the Island of San Juan. He reports that if the intentions of Governor Douglas had been carried out, there would have been a collision between the British and American forces, as the vessels Satellite and Plumper had orders from him to fire, but Admiral Baine opportunely arrived and superseded him in command of the English ship of war, five in number.

The original misunderstanding was with the Hudson Bay Company, the interests of which were represented by Governor Douglas. The Island of San Juan had been in the occupancy of the Americans at least eighteen months, nobody seeming to question their rights, and for a longer period was considered and treated in all respects as belonging to Washington Territory. It was not until Gen. Harney applied to and was informed by British Commissioner Campbell, that our title to the island was clear at all.

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LATER FROM EUROPE. ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN. Important From China.

FAR EAST POINT, Sept. 25.—The Steamer North American from Liverpool, with dates to the 16th, passed here to-day, going to Quebec, and the following summary of her adventures has been received.

The steamer Asia arrived out on the 11th inst., and the steamer Hungarian on the 13th, and Vanderbilt on the 14th.

An explosion occurred on board the steamer Great Eastern on the 9th inst. off Hastings. The funnel was blown into the air—tearing in pieces the grand saloon and doing great damage to the internal fittings. The guests had just quitted the saloon and escaped injury. The force of the explosion was terrific, but the ship resisted the shock. Her frame sustaining no injury. The accident made so little difference in the movements of the ship that the engines never stopped till she reached Portland, where an inquest was held, which returned a verdict that the boiler, through the water jacket was stopped because of the failure of an auxiliary pumping power. Secondly, a tap in a stand pipe, which acts as a safety valve, was turned, apparently intentionally, so that the pipe was useless. The ship was almost without motion during the trip, when large ships were tossing in the stormy sea. The injury would be repaired in five days.

ENGLAND.—A new reform movement under the auspices of Mr. Cobden and others was in progress.

Some of the builders of London had yielded to the demands of their workmen.

FRANCE.—The King of Belgium has gone to see Napoleon, as is supposed, in reference to the difficulties between France and Austria.

The late article in the Monitor, it is stated, came direct from the Emperor.

It was rumored that France and England had agreed that a European Congress on the Italian question was necessary.

The Plenipotentiaries at Zurich were having occasional meetings.

CHINA.—Admiral Hope arrived off the Peiho river on the 17th of June, but found the entrance barred. An attempt was made on the 25th to force a passage, when suddenly batteries supported by a force of twenty thousand men were unmasked and opened a destructive fire.

After a severe action the squadron was compelled to withdraw with the loss of gun boats, six mortar boats, and four hundred and sixty-four men killed, and wounded. The French had fourteen men killed out of sixty.

Seven British officers were killed, and seventeen wounded, the latter including the Admiral.

The Plenipotentiaries had returned to Shanghai.

The details say the mouth of the river was raked by the fire of newly constructed forts mounting nine hundred guns.

At 10 P. M. the signal for action was run up. The gunboats Opussum and Plover pushed in close to the first barrier, when the guns of the fort opened fire, and the action became general. The fire of the Chinese, in weight and precision, was such as never before experienced. Every shot told, while those of the British did comparatively little damage. The troops were ordered to land, but as the first boat touched the shore, the forts poured a perfect hurricane of shells, balls and rockets, which mowed down the men as they landed. The ship supported them as well as possible.

The mud on the shore was deep, and the thousand landing barely one hundred reached the first wide ditches, five hundred yards from the river. Only fifty reached the third ditch, and these would have made an attempt to scale the walls but the ladders were broken by the shot or stuck fast in the mud. With the one remaining, ten men sprang forward, three of whom were killed, and five severely injured. Orders were at last given to retire and in the retreat the men were shot down like birds. Many boats were sunk by the balls and there was not enough to take off the survivors. Several boats full of wounded were struck and swamped.

Russian features were distinctly visible at the batteries.

The Americans towed up several boats to the scene of action and afterwards took a number of men to their respective ships.

ITALY.—The National Assembly of Parma had voted for the expulsion of the House of Bourbon and the annexation of that State to Sardinia.

It was said that King Victor Emmanuel was disbanding his army; but the men were furnished with passports to Tuscany and Modena where they will swell the army in Central Italy.

ASTA.—Schmyl is said to have been made prisoner by the Russians, and sent to St. Petersburg.

AUSTRIA.—The Government of Austria is making great concessions to Protestants.

INDIA.—There were signs of dissatisfaction in the Madras cavalry at Hyderabad.

The Australian mail to the middle of July had arrived. The supply of gold was increasing.

The Liverpool Cotton Market for the three days closed dull, with sales of 12,000 bales, including 1,000 to speculators with 2,500 to exporters.

Prices were easier, and some authorities say a decline of 1/16th had taken place. At Manchester the market opened quiet but closed firm.

Breadstuffs generally had an advancing tendency, and all kinds were slightly higher. Flour closed firm at an advance of 6d. per sack. Wheat closed with an advancing tendency of 2 1/2 cents.

Provisions steady; best steady; pork firm; bacon firm but quiet; hard beef; rice; yam; corn firm at 4s; spirits turpentine firm at 35s. 6d.

Telegraphic Dispatches. The Equinoctial Storm in Albemarle.

Piedmont Virginia suffered more from the storm of last week than any other part of our State; and we doubt not, Albemarle has been damaged in a larger degree than any county in the Piedmont country. We think we fall short of the actual figure when we estimate the loss sustained by our county at \$100,000.

It commenced raining on Thursday night of last week, and continued to fall throughout Friday, and during the whole of Friday night the rain came down in torrents, accompanied by a perfect gale from the North West.

At an early hour of Saturday morning the Rhyanna was out of its banks, and by 12 o'clock it had risen to a height of ten inches above the highest water marks of the famous freshets of 1852 and 1826. The tobacco crop of Albemarle, one of the largest and most promising we have ever raised, was generally located upon our river flats or upon the creeks. The consequence has been a great destruction everywhere of this valuable staple. Where the water did but little damage, the violent winds carried their devastations. To give some idea of the loss sustained by our river planters, we have heard it estimated by reliable men that from the mills to Shadwell the damages are not under \$12,000. Dr. T. J. Cooke's loss is estimated at \$2,500; Major Cobley's at \$2,500; Dr. W. G. Carr's at \$2,500; Mr. E. J. Timberlake's at \$500; Mrs. Mason's at \$500, and Dr. Minor is a heavy loser, but to what extent we are not accurately informed. On Moore's Creek, Mr. A. Rives's tobacco suffered very much, and Mr. W. P. Farish lost his mill dam and a very large portion of his tobacco—his loss probably reaches \$2,000. At Mr. Farish's Blair Park estate, near Greenwood, his loss is about \$2,000. Mr. John Mosby and Mr. Wayland, in the same neighborhood, lost each a new tobacco house.

Two spans of a bridge at Rio were carried off. Both of Mr. R. Burnley's mill dams and his saw mill were destroyed. Mr. William Garth's mill dam, so rumor says, was broken. Mr. John Cochran's mill dam near town was swept away. The last named dam has successfully withstood every freshet for the last forty-five years. It was swept away in 1841; and was so strongly rebuilt that no fears were entertained that it would ever yield to high water.

From other parts of the county we have received no particulars concerning the damage. On the Central Railroad there were two or three culverts so much impaired as to detain the trains six or seven hours. The night of Tuesday night last again broke the culvert at Keswick, and the trains had to change passengers and baggage, unable to cross the culvert. The Western train was detained yesterday several hours, owing to further damage to the road.

The greatest damage of last week's storm seems to have been suffered by the counties lying at the foot of the Blue Ridge, and extending from Lynchburg to Alexandria.

In the Valley there was less rain and less wind, and though the storm had prevailed to the same extent in the hills, still they had escaped serious injury. Charlottesville, however, was injured.—Charlottesville Advocate of Saturday.

A Sister's Letter to a Highwayman. A notorious highwayman was shot near Auburn, California, a few weeks ago. On his person was found the following letter from his sister:

SWEET HEART, MARCH 14, 1850. MY DEAR BROTHER: I read scarcely believe, or rather realize, that I am again indulging in the privilege of addressing you, with the hope of being heard or understood. And truthfully I ask that you, my much beloved brother, the guide of my infant joys, the long lost friend of my childhood, will allow a renewed correspondence to open between you and your good old home. Oh! how our hearts have ached for a word from your own pen. Years have passed away since your last letter reached us—years that now seem to be lifetimes. I have prayed to the Father that He would restore you to the path of rectitude; but if He has not already, you say, "Alas! he will never save me." But I say faithfully, He will, Oh! brother, and truthfully I ask that you, my much beloved brother, the guide of my infant joys, the long lost friend of my childhood, will allow a renewed correspondence to open between you and your good old home. 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